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Selma, California. A female quail shot near O'Neal's, Madera County, on the opening day of the season, Oct. 15, 1911, was found, upon examination to contain well-developed eggs, the largest of which would probably have been ready to deposit within a very few days. Other quail shot on the same day had long since ceased to be in breeding condition.

Columba fasciata fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. Several residents of the mountain districts have reported pigeons as being quite common this winter (1915), all through the oak covered foot-hills. One man informed me that in former years an experienced hunter never failed to secure a full bag of pigeons in a day's hunt even though the birds sometimes became rather wary. He further explained that when a flock took wing from a tree, one bird remained in nearly every instance and by approaching slowly this lone bird could easily be taken. As flocks seldom flew far before again alighting, a certain amount of perseverance was the only requirement for accumulating good-sized "limits".

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. Several large flocks of this Buteo, choosing a most inopportune time, were migrating southward through the valley when the shooting season for quail and ducks opened on October 15, 1913. Much expensive ammunition was worse than wasted on the low-flying hawks and many a hunter returned home firm in the belief that he had rendered a valuable service by killing several. And the farmers, too, instead of protesting, joined in the sport and in some cases organized automobile parties to hunt hawks out on the plains. Locating a number of these birds perched on the ground they would drive rapidly among them and slaughter them right and left with pump guns as they slowly took wing. Sometimes it is with a feeling akin to grim satisfaction that we note the ever-increasing horde of ground squirrels, pocket gophers and field mice!

Chordeiles acutipennis texensis. Texas Nighthawk. A single Nighthawk—a new arrival from the south—was observed near Firebaugh late in the evening of March 20, 1914, and twelve or more were noted circling over a city park in Fresno on October 4. The former is my earliest spring, and the latter my latest fall, record for this species.

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird. Latest fall record for 1912, September 23, for a single bird. For 1913, October 2, when two were seen. My earliest spring record is March 6, 1914, for a single bird near Sanger.

Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons. Cliff Swallow. A large colony was found nesting in an open cave among the lava caps on a mountain west of Friant, Madera County, last spring. On April 3, 1915, nearly all of the nests contained full sets of eggs, some, at least, being partly incubated. This is rather early nesting. I have never seen this species in the spring earlier than March 13 (1913). October 21, 1915, I noticed a large migrant flock of Cliff Swallows near Sanger.

Hirundo erythrogastra. Barn Swallow. My earliest date of spring arrival is March 4, 1914. Last spring (1915) they did not arrive until March 12, when two pairs were seen. The previous season they were quite common by that date.

Fresno, California, December 15, 1915.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Early Nesting of the Lutescent Warbler in Los Angeles County.—April 1, 1916, I found a nest of this bird containing six eggs, in Franklin Canyon, near Los Angeles. It was impracticable to collect bird, nest or eggs at that time; and four days later, on again visiting the spot, the nest was found destroyed and no sign of bird or eggs. There is no possible question as to the identity of the bird, as when I started it from the nest it "fussed" around me for ten minutes or more, a part of the time within eight feet of where I sat beside the nest. To make more certain, I moved away a few yards, when the bird returned to its eggs, and started a second time when my face was within three feet of the nest. Apparently this is a record for early breeding, as well as for the large number of eggs.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

Decoys Used by Market Hunters in Slaughtering Band-tailed Pigeons.—On a recent visit to Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, I was informed how easily the Band-tailed Pigeon had been slaughtered by the simple device formerly used to decoy the Passenger Pigeon. The method was to fasten a dead or half-dead pigeon on a stick or wire in the top of one of the oak trees where the birds commonly congregated, the decoy being placed quite high where it would easily be seen. This decoy would lead flock after flock to the slaughter, the market hunter being able to kill all he wanted without moving from the tree.

I think that before there is once more an open season on the Band-tailed Pigeon it would be wise to have legislation enacted prohibiting the use of decoys, and thus in a measure guard against a repetition of this former disgraceful method of slaughter.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California*.

Nesting of the Western Robin in San Francisco County.—On May 31, 1915, I saw a male Western Robin (*Planesticus m. propinquus*) near the western portal of the Twin Peaks Tunnel. The bird had something in its beak which I took to be food for nestlings. On June 5 of the same year I saw another bird of this species near Strawberry Hill in Golden Gate Park. These observations led me to suspect that the Western Robin was nesting on the seaward side of the San Francisco peninsula. Accordingly in April and early May of the present year I made a somewhat thorough investigation of the St. Francis Wood region and of the territory around Strawberry Hill. These efforts were, however, without result.

On May 17, of the present year I was looking around the gardens on Sutro Heights when a male robin alighted within a few feet of where I was standing. A few minutes later a female appeared with food in her bill. I remained quiet until she flew to her nest in a Monterey cypress. As she alighted on the nest four or five young birds raised their heads and clamored for the food. The same day I saw another robin at the Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park.

I believe this is the first time the Western Robin has been found nesting in the bay region. The nearest station heretofore reported is, I believe, San Geronimo, Marin County, reported by J. and J. W. Mailliard. While the Western Robin has always seemed to be much more a bird of the wilds than its eastern cousin, may it not be that it is slowly changing its habits and seeking closer relationship with man?—W. A. SQUIRES, *San Francisco, California*.

The Western Robin Nesting in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.—On April 16, 1916, while walking around the Chain of Lakes, in the western part of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, my attention was attracted by a pair of Western Robins (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) which were carrying building material to a Monterey cypress about thirty feet from a small arm of North Lake. No attempt was made to find the nest at this time, for fear of driving the birds away. On April 20 the nest was located on a limb eight feet from the ground and almost overhanging one of the main boulevards. Dried grass was mostly used in the construction, with a little string and the usual mud plastering around the rim. The eggs had not been deposited at this time. On May 2 I again visited the nest, in company with Mr. H. C. Bryant, who took several photographs of it. It now contained three eggs well along in incubation. Four more uncompleted nests were found in the near vicinity. Remnants of a last year's nest were shown us by Mr. Jesse Klapp, the park game warden, who also informed us that to his knowledge robins have nested in the park for the last three years. On May 12 I found that the nest under observation had been robbed.

On May 15, a nest containing young, was found in a growth of Australian Tea Bush, bordering a bridle path. When visited again, with Mr. Klapp, on May 17, the young were found dead. We were unable to determine whether this had been caused by cold weather, or by the depredations of some animal. Later five other nests were located, of which two contained young, two were inaccessible, and the other was deserted.

There appears to be no other record of the nesting of the Western Robin near the coast south of San Francisco Bay. Why the pines and cypresses of Monterey County are not likewise attractive is difficult to understand. Doubtless food supply is the important limiting factor which comes into play in this case. Whether the increase of



Fig. 44. NEST OF WESTERN ROBIN IN GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO; MAY 2, 1916

conditions similar to those in Golden Gate Park will lead to the establishing of additional breeding colonies of robins, as has been the case with juncos, remains to be seen.—HAROLD E. HANSEN, *San Francisco, California*.

A Recent Record of the Trumpeter Swan in the State of Washington.—Reports and sight records of the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) have always been much more plentiful for Washington than actual specimens. Therefore, about three years ago, I was greatly interested to have Mr. Fred Edwards, our Tacoma taxidermist, report to me that an unusually large swan had been sent in to him for mounting. It was shot on, or about, November 9, 1912, the locality being Moses Lake, Douglas County, Washington. The sex was not ascertained, but the bird had not yet reached the mature white plumage. After comparing it with a number of Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) that were brought in, both Mr. Edwards and I felt positive that it was a Trumpeter. The bird is now in the possession of Mr. George Willett, of Los Angeles, California, who writes me that he is perfectly satisfied as to its identity. Measurements, furnished by him, are as follows, in inches and hundredths: Length of wing, 25; tarsus, 4.12; middle toe and claw, 6.36; eye to tip of bill, 5.36; nostril to tip of bill, 2.55. Number of tail feathers, 22.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington*.

Notes from Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California.—

Larus brachyrhynchus. A male in adult plumage taken November 27, 1915.

Totanus flavipes. A male of the year taken August 11, 1915. It was feeding with a flock of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) in a shallow tide-water lagoon.

Steganopus tricolor. A male of the year taken August 1, 1915. It was likewise feeding in the same lagoon with a flock of Western Sandpipers. The mixed flock also contained a Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*).—ADRIAAN VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California*.